

NH Prescription Drug Affordability Board

In-person / Remote Hybrid Meeting

Meeting August 26, 9:30 A.M.

NOTE: This meeting was recorded. All related documents (and a recording of the entire meeting) are available at: [New Hampshire Prescription Drug Affordability Board | New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services \(nh.gov\)](#)

CALL TO ORDER: Representative Gary Merchant called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

ATTENDING: *In person:* Representative Gary Merchant, Representative Jess Edwards, Senator Cindy Rosenwald, Dr. Robert Woodward, Dr. Jason Aziz, Executive Director Kirk Williamson. *Virtual:* None. A quorum was established following the elevation of Jason Aziz and Robert Woodward as full members.

ABSENT: Senator Daryl Abbas, Senator Sharon Carson, Representative David Nagel, Todd Fahey, Tom Sherman.

MINUTES REVIEW: Senator Cindy Rosenwald made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24 meeting, with the correction of establishing that she was present at the meeting. Seconded by Robert Woodward. Motion passed unanimously via roll call.

AGENDA REVIEW: Rep. Edwards requested that in relation to the last meeting's discussion about historical legislation that's been submitted, he be allowed to share thoughts on new legislation in the coming term. Approved by the Chair, Rep. Merchant.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

APPROVAL OF MISSION STATEMENT: There was a lengthy discussion with the full Board to review the proposed final Mission Statement following several meetings and various rounds of edits from Board members. The majority of the discussion revolved around grammatical errors, or corrections, and nuances to wording and interpretation. Sen. Rosenwald made a motion to approve the amended version of the report. Seconded by Dr. Woodward. Motion passed via unanimous roll call.

ANNUAL REPORT OUTLINE: Rep. Merchant presented the Board with the outline of the Annual Report. Rep. Edwards led a robust discussion about (1) the use of data, (2) who receives data, and (3) its relation to conflict of interest. Additionally, the idea of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) versus a separate MoU with the Department of Insurance was discussed. Mary Fields added to the discussion, noting she, attorney Robert Berry, and others, were working on amending the existing MoU to reflect updated data sharing agreement parameters and clearly delineate Mr. Williamson's limited access to the Comprehensive Health Information System (CHIS) to compile reports on prescription drug pricing at the request of the Board. Due to time constraints, Rep. Merchant requested this discussion be continued as an agenda item on the next regular meeting of the Board. Rep. Edwards also spoke about being uncomfortable proposing any new legislation within the time frame suggested in the outline. He would prefer this part be pushed to after the report is due on November 1st. The Board agreed to change the wording of the legislative proposals section to reflect this ask.

INITIAL REVIEW OF 2023 HIGH-COST DRUGS IN THE NH STATE EMPLOYEE AND RETIREE HEALTH PLAN: At the request of the Stakeholder Advisory Council, the Board moved to broaden the scope of the analysis to include prescription drug spending by the Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH), the University System of New Hampshire (USNH), and HealthTrust plans. The analysis will be revised, and the

updated findings will be presented at the September Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COUNCIL: Mr. Williamson provided a brief update concerning the newly formed Advisory Council. The next scheduled meeting for the Council is on September 16, from 11:30-1:00 and is completely virtual.

2026-2027 BUDGET: Submitting the budget to the Fiscal Committee due to the non-lapsing fund to reallocate existing funds to newly establish class line items. This request is the same as the May request (which was approved) but must be resubmitted for the new fiscal year. The new budget request will include a small increase to include contracts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Heidi Kroll, representing AHIP, spoke virtually, to clarify how coupons work. She stated they are used to entice patients during the deductible period, even though lower priced options are available. She also mentioned that the federal government considers coupons to be illegal kickbacks in federal health insurance programs, like Medicare and Medicaid. She talked about how only the manufacturers have a full and clear picture of how coupons affect the overall cost.

ADJOURNMENT: Rep. Merchant adjourned the meeting. At 11:29.

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